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UNITED NATIONS
DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAMME

ENGLISH

APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF
POLAND

IPF:(1992-96) $3 800 000

(POL/93/001) - Market Economy Institutions Programme (MEIP)

Date of approval by the AC:[1]	22 April 1993	
Expected duration:	Two years	
Proposed executing agency.	Government	
Government implementing agency:	Ministry of Privatization	
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$ 800 000	
Government cost sharing:	$1 000 000	
Third-party cost sharing:	$ 710 000	Source of funds: EC/Enterprises
Total UNDP budget:	$2 510 000	

Project background

Poland is the largest country in central Europe, with a market of 38 million people. It has a highly skilled, but low cost labor force.The country is geographically well place, bordering the European Community (EC) with its 350 million consumers, and is generally considered a natural conduit for the East-West trade. It is an associate member of the EC. Poland has relatively well-developed ports, an extensive road and rail system, and telecommunications infrastructure which has improved significantly over the past two years. By the end of 1991, Poland completed the transition from a Communist state to a multiparty democracy. Today it continues to make the transition from a centrally-planned to a market-driven economy. As part of its economic reform, strategy and move to a decentralized market-based economy, Poland has adopted an ambitious privatization programme. The cornerstone of the privatization programme is the transfer of state assets into private hands.

The privatization programme formally began in mid-1990 with the enactment of the Privatization Law for SOEs and the establishment of the Ministry of Privatization (MOP). The original goal of the Government was to transfer approximately one half of state-owned assets to private hands within the first three years of the programme. A large portion of state-owned assets are SOEs, for which the privatization strategy has been established with various paths of privatization depending on their size, ownership, strategic nature and degree of economic and financial viability. Given the large number of firms to be privatized, the time necessary to prepare them for privatization, and the business and social risks attached to the privatization programme, many SOEs will continue to operate in the medium term. Therefore, the efficiency and competitiveness of these enterprises must be enhanced so that they become viable candidates for successful privatization, and therefore generators of employment and girders of the market-driven economy. As a

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preparatory stage toward privatization, the MOP is undertaking sectoral analysis. This entails analysis of:(1) key sectors to determine the domestic and international environments in which existing SOEs. of the sectors under examination operate; and (2) potential investor interest and requirements. The objective of the analysis is to obtain sufficient information on which to make decisions regarding privatization restructuring and liquidation of the companies in the sector.

Description of project

The Programme is intended to be a cost-effective mechanism to assist Poland's transition to a market economy by strengthening the institutional capacity of the Polish Privatization Programme. In this two-year pilot stage, operations are targeted in the designated four "voivodeships". The Programme has three main components: (1) pre/post-privatization technical advisory services; (2) market economy training; and (3) public awareness. Technical advisory services will be provided to a target group of enterprises in the programme regions before and after their privatization in order to ensure their continuous growth and competitiveness in a market economy.

The Programme also focuses on creating an environment which enables successful economic transition. To this end, the market economy training will be provided to increase human and institutional capabilities in the areas of privatization, entrepreneurship and regional economic development. In addition to enterprise management and regional government officials, training will especially target regional educational institutions, which will then take a lead in future training initiatives in the regions.

The public awareness component will be carried out through a series of "off-the-record" workshops directed at opinion leaders. The Programme will liaise and coordinate closely with other existing efforts taken by UNDP and other donors. It is also structured to invite other donors' future participation. Through such a linkage, the programme will also comprehensively address other important issues, though not directly related to its main activities but critical for its overall success, such as environmental issues, access to capital, investment promotion, trade development, and gender equality at work place. The structure of the programme is flexible in that it facilitates ongoing programming efforts between regional and central entities. The Programme also provides the Ministry of Privatization and regional authorities with the capability to mobilize resources required to meet new programme activities as well as resources required for its future replication to other regions of Poland.

Inputs

UNDP will provide a national programme manager and assistant (24 work-months each), four international advisers in privatization (18 work-months each); four UNVs (24 work-months each); group training for approximately 360; limited expendable equipment; and miscellaneous costs.

Financial data

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Personnel	709 800
Subcontract	7 200
Training	67 000
Miscellaneous	16 000
Total	800 000

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ENGLISH

APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF
ARGENTINA

IPF:(1992-96) $11 090 000

(ARG/93/027) - Support to the Programme for Administration of Government Property

Date of approval by the AC:[1/]	23 June 1993
Expected duration:	18 months
Proposed executing agency:	Government
Government implementing agency:	Subsecretaria de Administracion de Bienes (Ministerio de Economia)
Proposed UNDP contribution:	Nil
Government cost sharing:	$ 2 987 700
Total UNDP budget:	$ 2 987 700

Project background

Within the context of the ongoing privatization process, the Government of Argentina is developing a programme for the sale, disposal and/or profitable administration of the properties and the land belonging to public enterprises and/or the central administration, no longer required for their respective functions. With the objective of promoting the sale,disposal or write-off of such Government property, the Government has issued Decree No. 407/91 whereby it has established rules and procedures to regulate this process.

Among the properties to be disposed of, special mention is made of the buildings and land owned by the Argentine Railroad Company. Considering that railroad development in Argentina was mainly carried out by independent enterprises (both public and private), each of them purchased the plots of land necessary for establishing stations, parkings, premises, warehouses, while some other plots were reserved for possible expansion which did not always materialize.

The existence of competing railway companies and their independent operations both in technical and operative aspects, has given rise to a complex system of railways, stations and general infrastructure , especially in large cities and ports where the main railway lines converge. The consolidation of the Argentina railways system into one public national enterprise and the simultaneous development of alternative means of transport have led to surplus capacity compared to traffic requirements. Within the framework of the programme for Public Enterprises Reform (IBRD loan 3292-AR, U$S 23.000.000), the Ministry of Economy recently hired an international consulting firm to carry out the following analysis: (a) identify un- or underutilized properties/land belonging to the public enterprises as well as to the central administration; and (b) determine surplus capacity under the ownership of

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the railroad company.

Description of project

The development objectives of the project are to: (a) streamline the Argentine public sector, in particular the rationalization of the State's ownership of properties and land; (b) help generate resources; and (c) reduce the cost of maintaining the physical infrastructure.

The immediate objective of the project is to cost and time efficiently the disposal, rent, concession and/or development of un- and underutilized properties and land through UNDP technical assistance.

Project activities will include: (a) identification of public properties that could be subject to immediate disposal (sale, rental or utilization for other purposes); (b) development of an integrated computerized system to have immediate access to information related to these properties; (c) identification of legal actions necessary to carry out disposals; (d) revision of the above real estate registry documentation and definition of the actions to be taken for ascertaining the availability of the different properties; (e) securing accurate quotations to determine appropriate sale, rental or concession values; (f) sale, rent or concession effected; (g) implementation of adequate records and administrative controls for each operation; and (h) identification of those properties that could be utilized for development projects.

Inputs

UNDP will provide for national professionals in fields such as systems analysis, institutional relationships, accountancy, and development projects; subcontracts to identify un- or underutilized properties/land to determine surplus capacity of the railroad company; expendable equipment; and miscellaneous costs.

Financial data

	$
Personnel	1 635 500
Subcontract	1 320 000
Equipment	25 000
Miscellaneous	7 200
Total	2 987 700

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ENGLISH

APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF
BRAZIL

IPF:(1992-96) $14 183 000

(BRA/92/001) - Prevention and Control of Sexually Transmitted Diseases and AIDS

Date of approval by the AC:[1/]	11 August 1993
Expected duration:	Eighteen months
Proposed executing agency:	Government
Government implementing agency:	Ministry of Health
Government cost sharing:	$ 17 471 000
Total UNDP budget:	$ 17 471 000

Project background

AIDS first appeared in Brazil in 1983, about two years after emerging in developed countries. Since then, and until December 1992, 33,938 cases have been reported, reaching all Units of the Federation and placing the country in the fourth rank in the world in total number of cases. Prevalence rate per 100,000 inhabitants has increased from 0.005 in 1982 to 25.5 in 1992; and a decrease in the male/female ratio has occurred from 121.1 in 1984 to 7.1 in 1992. Based on a prevalence rate of 425,000 individuals already infected with HIV, it is estimated that there will be 87,000 new AIDS cases during 1993-1995 period. For a prevalence rate of only 280,000 HIV infected individuals, the number of new cases will drop to 57,000. The most pessimistic forecast estimates that, during the same period, 85,000 individuals will die from AIDS, whereas the most optimistic view estimates the number of AIDS-related deaths at 56,000.

Some recent studies on the economic impact of the epidemic, indicate a health care cost of (US)$16,700 per patient/year in Brazil (excluding the cost of drugs such as AZT) and that 70 per cent of cases fall within the economically active age bracket. The Brazilian Government is aware of the magnitude and negative impact that the AIDS epidemic may have both in the welfare of the population as well as in the Brazilian economy and is firmly determined to decrease the rate of expansion of HIV infection and to enhance the efficiency of health care for AIDS patients. It is considered that the major gaps in the battle against AIDS in Brazil result from a lack of effective information, education and communication (IEC) actions; the high price, limited availability and poor quality of condoms; the lack of reliable data and effective mechanisms for the follow up and evaluation of HIV/AIDS prevention and control activities; the scarcity of resources made available to the sectors working with this problem; and the recentness of the interinstitutional integration process

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ENGLISH

APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF
CHINA

IPF:(1992-96) $176 600 000
(CPR/91/543) - Effective Participation in the International Trading System

Date of approval by the AC:[1]	21 April 1993
Expected duration:	Four years
Proposed executing agency:	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
Government implementing agency:	Department of International Trade and Economic Relations (Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation) (DITER/MOFTEC)
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$ 998 900 Source of funds: IPF
Previous UNDP contribution:	$ 215 800
Total UNDP budget:	$1 214 700

Project background

While continuing to attach great importance to the bilateral relations with its trading partners, China has also decided to integrate itself into the multilateral trading system by seeking to resume its membership in the General Agreement on Tariff and Trade (GATT). In this regard, China's major objectives have been to obtain non-discriminatory access for its exports to world markets based on the unconditional most-favoured-nation clause, and to consolidate the liberalization process in China in the framework of multilateral rights and obligations. Should the Uruguay Round be successful, GATT will be subsumed by the resulting new instruments, including a new multilateral trade organization (MTO) which will contain multilateral agreements establishing stricter multilateral disciplines on a variety of issues including agriculture, textiles and clothing, subsidies, anti-dumping duties, trade-related investment measures, technical barriers to trade, etc. which, along with tariff concessions, will be incorporated in a revised GATT termed "GATT 1993", as well as the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS), and Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights.

China has been an active participant in the Uruguay Round negotiations on trade in services. The proposed GATS resulting from these negotiations provides for specific concessions by China and all other participants with respect to liberalizing trade in services, as well as for future negotiations within five years aimed at the progressive liberalization of trade in services. Opportunities for China will have to be identified in order for China to take advantage of its membership in the GATS and to participate effectively in future negotiations within this framework. The ability of China to take part effectively in the multilateral negotiations leading to its accession to GATT and the MTO, as well as in the implementation of the GATS and "GATT 1993" and other multilateral

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agreements under the MTO, is hampered by (i) the lack of experience of most Government officials in multilateral trade negotiations; (ii) the ability of Government officials to identify cost and opportunity links to natural objectives; (iii) the complexity of the legal and institutional questions involved; (iv) the lack of effective support from research institutes and from the academic community in China, which also lacks knowledge and experience with respect to the issues involved; and (v) the lack of information available in China.

DITER is charged with the responsibility of handling multilateral trade affairs in MOFTEC and is the focal point for China's participation in the multilateral trading system. Currently, a large part of DITER's work in this area is concerned with China's resumption of status as a contracting party to the GATT and with China's participation in the Uruguay Round. DITER's negotiating capacity in formulating positions, in decision making, and in responding to its negotiating partners has been handicapped by the lack of adequate resources in both the DITER and in other departments and institutions.

Description of project

The long-term objective of the project is to strengthen China's capacity to pursue effectively its trade and development objectives in multilateral trade negotiations as well as in the context of the multilateral trade agreements expected to emerge from the Uruguay Round with particular reference to the services sector.

The immediate objectives of the project are to: (a) support China in participating more effectively in the international trading system, particularly in the final stage of the Uruguay Round negotiations and in the instruments and agreements on trade in goods and services resulting from the negotiations such as the Multilateral Trade Organization; (b) identify barriers to China's trade in services and means of eliminating such barriers through international negotiations; (c) strengthen effectively the support of the service sector in China towards competitiveness of the manufacturing and agriculture sectors; and (d) develop the negotiating capacity of Chinese officials in trade negotiations and improve the research capacity of Chinese institutions that provide inputs for trade policy formulation.

Project activities will include: (i) undertaking training programmes for Chinese trade officials; (ii) preparation of studies; (iii) organization of seminars and workshops; (iv) providing advice in policy formulation with respect to trade and development of service sectors; (v) developing a trade database for both goods and services; and (vi) diffusion of trade policy information.

Inputs

UNDP will provide approximately 38 work-months of international expert services for international seminars and short-term research work and 148 work-months of national consultancy for various studies; a "TRAINFORTRADE"programme and other training forms like fellowships, group training, in-service training and study tours; equipment including computers, software, printers and other related items in support of the research and training activities; and miscellaneous costs.

Financial data

	$
Personnel	756 500
Subcontract	8 000
Training	165 000
Equipment	27 400
Miscellaneous	42 000
Total	998 900

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ENGLISH

APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF
CHINA

IPF:(1992-96) $176 600 000

(CPR/91/110) - Agricultural Development in Arid and Semi-arid Areas of Northwestern China

Date of approval by the AC:[1/]	9 June 1993
Expected duration:	Five years
Proposed executing agency:	Government (China International Centre for Economic & Technical Exchanges) (CICETE)
Government implementing agency:	Ministry of Agriculture (MOA)
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$9 044 000
Total UNDP budget:	$9 044 000

Project background

The above-mentioned project covers six provinces/autonomous regions in the northwestern China comprising one quarter of the country's territory and seven percent of total population. The climate is typically continental with cold winters and annual precipitation of less than 250 mm.; the terrain is mostly sandy or loess; and soil erosion is widespread with water-induced erosion in the loess soils and wind erosion in the sandy dry areas. The arid and semi-arid areas in northwestern China is one of the poverty-stricken regions of China. The average annual income of local peasants is approximately (US)$ 70 per capita (1990) with some counties having the lowest income in the whole country. Agricultural productivity is well below the national average with annual grain import to the region estimated at one million tons. Although livestock is an important source of income, uncontrolled grazing has led to serious degradation of the vegetative cover.

The need for sustainable agricultural practices to break the vicious cycle of low agricultural productivity, environmental degradation and poverty is well recognized by the Government. Over the past 40 years, massive efforts were made to rehabilitate and improve the eroded rainfed loess plateau area. Integrated models were developed through UNDP/FAO assistance with large-scale follow-up investments by WFP and the World Bank. Likewise, UNDP technical assistance has also been provided for improved irrigated farming and on-farm water management to maximize massive investments already made in developing irrigation facilities. However, productivity continues to be low because of the lack of improved seed varieties, traditional agricultural practices, inadequate training of technicians and farmers, and lack of appropriate technologies suited to ecological conditions of the region.

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Description of project

This long-term objective of the project is to develop the arid and semi-arid areas of northwestern China which will contribute to sustainable increases in food production and improvement in living conditions of the people while maintaining or improving the agro-environmental conditions.

The immediate objectives of five components are to: (a) develop the capacity of Gansu Desert Control Research Institute for farm-oriented research, and demonstrate farming systems suited to desert areas based on assessment of needs of farmers and grazers in desert fringes along the Hexi Corridor; (b) strengthen the capacity of six existing key research and extension institutions of the region to improve genetic base of key crops and introduce improved tillage practices, crop management and water conservation techniques; (c) improve the institutional capacity and technical support system of Shaanxi Fruit Tree Research Centre to develop and extend virus free and drought-resistant fruit varieties; (d) strengthen the capacity of Gansu Academy for Mechanical Sciences to design, test and demonstrate prototype small and medium farm-machinery suited to agro-environmental condition of the region; and (e) develop human resources required for increasing agricultural productivity in the region through upgrading of six key agricultural middle schools in northwestern China.

In addition to the five components there will be a sixth Programme Support component for effective management, coordination and monitoring of various activities including technical backstopping, maximization of synergies between programme components and dissemination of results. The results of component activities will be demonstrated through integrated agricultural development models in selected pilot counties (one from each participating province). These counties will also participate in UNFPA projects for promoting women's economic activities, strengthening of MCH/FP services, and upgrading the skills of family planning workers. The integrated field demonstration activities under the programme will be dovetailed with UNFPA activities with a view to developing county "models" and maximize direct benefits to the farmers.

Inputs

UNDP will provide 117 work-months of international and 130 work-months of national consultants; 558 work-months of fellowships and 89 work-months of study tours; and equipment for laboratory, field testing and training activities.

Financial data

	$
Personnel	2 129 000
Training	3 134 000
Equipment	3 511 000
Miscellaneous	270 000
Total	9 044 000

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ENGLISH

APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

IPF:(1993-96) $4 592 000

(ROK/93/004) - Annual National Conference on Women

Date of approval by the AC:[1/]	9 June 1993
Expected duration:	Four years
Proposed executing agency:	Government (Ministry of Political Affairs (II))
Government implementing agency:	Korean Women's Development Institute (KWDI)
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$ 50 000 Source of funds: IPF
Government cost sharing:	$ 50 000
Total UNDP budget:	$100 000

Project background

The rapid economic growth of the past 30 years has not been accompanied by an equally rapid improvement in the status of Korean women. The basic problems are that social awareness on gender equality is still low and institutional arrangements to reflect women's interests in national policy are inadequate, despite recent remarkable legal and policy reforms to improve women's status. The Korean Women's Movement has an important role in the advocacy of gender equality. Although it has grown considerably with the active involvement of NGOs and grass root organizations in political and social activities, the Korean Women's Movement still needs to make a united voice, and needs further empowerment in order to be able to effectively advocate gender equality. The present situation calls for a collective attempt to establish a regular forum where women themselves can raise consciousness on gender equality and to develop and implement national gender programmes through a participatory approach. The above-mentioned project will be an initial effort as a foundation of a larger process to meet this need.

Description of project

The development objective of the project is to create one comprehensive cooperation mechanism to promote women's issues while taking advantage of UNDP's pro-active stance on WID and its prestige. Particularly, as a major goal, it will bring together for the first time bring together governmental bodies, NGOs and women at the grass roots in a formal process and meetings. Intentionally, the agenda for the activities to be initiated as a result of the project will be left for the project participants to decide upon by themselves.

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The project strategy will emphasize a participatory approach. Specifically, the process of consensus building on women's issues will involve series of consultations with women representing various groups. It will start by establishing a steering committee which will play a key role in mobilizing a wide cross section of women, and monitor and evaluate the whole process. Small working groups representing various groups of women will be organized to collectively prepare specific resolutions and programmes for action for women's groups and recommendations for relevant NGOs and government authorities.

The first phase of this process will culminate at what is anticipated to be the initial annual National Conference on women where women and men from public and private sectors, central and local authorities, NGOs and CBOs will review the results of the previous consultations and suggest programmes for action and policy recommendations. Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms are expected to be established to ensure that there is future awareness and some accountability for the recommendations and plans for action, and to assess the accomplishments. The outcomes of the 93 conference will be inputs for the programme of action and a likely UNDP-supported project in the coming years in which a larger international dimension is foreseen. In effect, though this is a small-scale self-reliant activity at this stage, it is intended as the catalyst for a broader programme for future action.

Inputs

UNDP will provide $50,000 for the costs for national consultants as well as a staff member who will participate in the Conference Steering Committee. The Ministry of Political Affairs (II) will input secretarial services, and operational costs valued at an additional $50,000. Other inputs will involve the participation of women in the Steering Committee and in other small groups.

Financial data

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Personnel	68 000
Miscellaneous	32 000
Total	100 000

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ENGLISH

APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF
SIERRA LEONE

IPF:(1992-1996)$41 426 000
(SIL/89/008) - Inland Valley Swamp Development

Date of approval by the AC:[1/]	9 June 1993
Expected duration:	Three years
Proposed executing agency:	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO)
Government implementing agency:	Department of Agriculture and Forestry
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$1 638 000 Source of funds: IPF
Total UNDP budget:	$1 638 000

Project background

The economy and sustained well-being of Sierra Leone are very much dependent on agriculture, which is a very important [productive sector accounting for over 40 percent of the gross domestic (GDP), 30 percent of export earnings, and employs up to 70 percent of the country's active labour force. As the national food staple, rice is the most important agricultural product. With the progressive decline experienced in the country's social and economic conditions over the past 20 years, Sierra Leone has moved from the position of net exporter of the commodity during the early 1970's to that of a net importer today. Current production levels stand at around 500,000 metric tons against average domestic requirements of 900,000 metric tons per year., The balance has to be imported but, in the face of extremely unfavorable economic and financial conjectures, the Government has to explore alternative means of domestically meeting the shortfall.

Five ecological niches have been traditionally used for rice cultivation, namely: upland, mangrove swamp, Boliland, riverain grassland and inland valley swamp areas. Inland Valley Swamps (IVS) have thus far been proved to have the highest rice production because of their assured water supply, and generally high soil fertility. Research by the national rice research station at Rokupr has demonstrated that use of nitrogenous fertilizer could increase yield to more than four tons per hectare in the IVS. On the basis of past work in inland valley swamp development, the Government has adopted rice development production in these areas as a priority strategy in augmenting domestic production of this national staple. To this end it has requested UNDP assistance under the present approval.

UNDP assistance in inland valley swamp development started as far back as 1965. Between 1976 and 1990 a series of four related projects, namely: Assistance to Rokupr Rice

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Research Station (SIL/76/008), Land and Water Development (SIL/80/010), Inland Valley Swamp Rice Project (SIL/82/005), and Inland Swamp Development (SIL/86/001) contributed to the carrying out of appropriate research and field trials relating to different rice ecologies, establishment of appropriate capacities and mechanisms for land development and irrigation schemes on a country-wide basis, and of facilitating pilot operations for increasing IVS rice production with a view to reducing pressure on the uplands.

Description of project

The development objective of the project is to cultivate rice in inland valley swamps and associated uplands with a view to increasing production and achieving national self sufficiency as well as rural family incomes, leading to improved living conditions and overall human development. The immediate objectives of the project are to: (a) refine and adopt IVS land development technology and spread its use by Farmers' Associations; (b) give direct assistance to farmers to promote increased production of rice and other food crops in IVS and adjacent uplands; (c) enhance skills and capacity development among farmers and extension workers of the department of Agriculture and Forestry; and (d) promote rural credit schemes with particular emphasis on women members of Farmers' Associations.

The project's target will be to develop and bring into production 200 hectares of traditional sample with the active, grassroots participation of about 270 farmers. Trials and pilot work will be carried out on rice multiple cropping patterns, integration of upland and swamp farming systems, and fish culture.

Inputs

UNDP will provide 36 work-months for a CTA rice agronomist, 10 work-months of consultancies in the field of swamp development engineering, oil palm agronomy, credit, small-scale rice post-harvest handling and processing, rizipisciculture and farmers Association development, soil resources and planning; three UNVs and a WID officer; administrative support staff; a subcontract for locally contracted casual workers; fellowships, group and in-service training; expendable and non-expendable equipment; and sundry, miscellaneous costs.

Financial data

	$
Personnel	893 000
Subcontract	40 000
Training	70 000
Equipment	280 000
Miscellaneous	355 000
Total	1 638 000

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ENGLISH

APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF CAMEROON

(CMR/92/008): Environment Management

IPF: (1992-96) $9 700 000

Date of approval by the AC:1/	16 June 1993
Expected duration:	18 months
Proposed executing agency:	Government
Government implementing agency:	Ministry of Environment and Forests
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$ 971 000
Total UNDP budget:	$ 971 000

Project background

Cameroon covers a total area of 475,000 km. with a population of approximately 12 million inhabitants. The country can be divided into five ecological zones each requiring specific measures for environment protection. These zones differ from each other not only in terms of ecology, but also in terms of farming systems, pastoral activities, fishing, and settlement patterns. These are Sudano-Sahelian zone, Savanah, West and high plateau, and the humid forest. The country is the second in Africa in its biodiversity. Cameroon's potential for sustained economic growth is based on the rational exploitation of its natural and human resources. However, the economy has been declining since 1986 after over 10 years of high growth rates, balanced budgets, and a low level of indebtedness. The decline has been due to a drastic fall in producer prices of its main exports: coffee, cocoa, timber, rubber and oil. Indebtedness has increased markedly since 1986, employment has fallen and so has investment despite the application of Structural Adjustment Programme and more than 24 percent increase in the volume of agricultural exports. In such a situation, over-exploitation of the country's natural resource is an attractive option for dealing with the crisis. Hence the Government has requested UNDP assistance under the present approval to lead stronger coordination and integrated approach of environment management.

With TSS-1 funds, IPF, PDF and donor contributions, UNDP has assisted the Government in drawing up an eight-point comprehensive priority programme, namely: (1) preparation of a National Environment Management Plan (NEMP); (2) setting up of a public education and sensitization programme; (3) training programmes for Environment Management for Government staff, as well as other personnel directly involved in Environment Management; (4) setting up a data base of environment information; (5) finalizing and implementing the national strategy and Plan of Action for combating drought and desertification; (6) protection of marine and coastal ecosystems; (7) setting up a specific system for the protection and rational exploitation of natural biodiversity; and (8) establishing a programme for urban environmental programmes in particular, waste disposals, squatter settlements, etc.

The implementation of the priority programme has already started (even if partially) and firm commitments upto 40 percent of its costs were made so far, including inter alia UNSO, GEF/World Bank and GEF/UNDP. A $12 million loan from the Islamic Bank is being negotiated as well as Capacity 21 participation to the elaboration of the National Environment Plan . The total cost of the priority programme is estimated at $25 million. A sectoral consultation of Donors, organized by UNDP, has been scheduled on 7 July 1993 for endorsing the programme strategy and agreeing on funding commitments. Further programme expansion and resource mobilization will be sought in the future.

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Description of project

The immediate objectives of the project are to: (a) formulate a long-term national environment strategy and management plan (NEMP), which will follow a inter-disciplinary integrated approach, and be based on the work produced by sectoral and thematic committees at interministerial level involving private and NGO's associations; and (b) improving the national capacity for better management of the process. The coordination structures and in particular, the coordinating Unit in the Ministry of Environment and Forests, which has the responsibility for the implementation of the national priority programme will be critical to the attainment of the overall objective.

Through MBO's seminars at national and regional levels, the programme will ensure grass-roots participation to the formulation of the NEMP and proposing elements for the formulation of an environment policy and strategy. Orientation courses will be implemented at national and provincial levels to educate the technical and adminitrative services and the grass-roots associations on basic issues/concepts of environmental management.

Inputs

UNDP will provide an international specialist (18 man-months) for the Co-ordination Unit, international and national consultants (six man-months and 25 man-months respectively) for organising the orientation courses, and formulating the national plan; administrative support; training and study tours; equipment; and miscellaneous costs.

Financial data

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Personnel	629 100
Training	42 700
Equipment	243 000
Miscellaneous	56 200
Total	971 000

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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF NEPAL

IPF:(1992-96) $52 361 000

(NEP/92/G31) - Biodiversity Conservation in Nepal

Date of approval by the AC:[1/]	16 June 1993
Expected duration:	Five years
Proposed executing agency:	Government
Government implementing agency:	Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC)
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$3 800 000
Total UNDP budget:	$3 800 000

Project background

The variety of ecosystems, the rarity of these ecosystems globally, the number of endemic species, and the number of threatened and endangered species, all contribute to ranking Nepal among the world's most important areas for biodiversity conservation. In recent years, the country's rich biodiversity has been threatened as a result of degradation of the natural ecosystems, loss of indigenous species of both flora and fauna, and loss of genetic variety within many of these species. Nepal has sought to protect its biodiversity by establishing protected areas including National Parks and, more recently, Conservation Areas. Fourteen protected areas have been established covering 15,931 sq. km, or 11 percent of the land area of the country. The Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC), one of four departments under the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation, has the mandate for **in-situ** conservation of ecosystems and genetic resources in Nepal. Each protected area is the responsibility of the Chief Warden, who is directly responsible to the Director-General of DNPWC. The National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act (1973), with amendments enacted in 1975 and 1983, provides the basis for (1973), with amendments enacted in 1975 and 1983, provides the basis for park and reserve administration and wildlife conservation in Nepal.

To complement the protected areas system, the Government established the Makalu-Barun National Park and Conservation Area (MBNPCA) in 1991. A comprehensive management plan was prepared and has been endorsed by the Government. As part of its strategy for ecosystem and genetic resource conservation, the Government signed a 12 year agreement with the Woodlands Mountain Institute (WMI), the partner agency in the MBNPCA component of the project, to design, implement, and raise financial assistance for the effective management of the MBNPCA in the eastern Himalayas adjoining the Sagarmatha (Mt. Everest) National Park in Nepal and Qomolongma (Mt. Everest) Nature Reserve in Tibet. Despite the important initiatives to establish protected areas, Nepal's biological diversity is threatened due to the lack of an adequate number of trained personnel and resources, particularly forests, in areas surrounding the protected areas, and the high concentration of tourists

[1/] This Fact Sheet reflects the status of the project/revision at the time it was approved by the Action Committee; modifications to the project/revision may have occurred subsequently.

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within a handful of the most popular protected areas. Approximately (US)$3.6 million has been secured by WMI from sources other than the GEF to fund the implementation of various components of the Makalu-Barun Management Plan. These complementary funds are being used to pay for community development activities, applied socio-economic research, some project personnel, and WMI administrative costs.

Description of project

The development objective of the project is to promote the conservation of ecosystems and genetic resources with the involvement of local people to ensure that they benefit from conservation rather than becoming alienated by it.

The immediate objectives of the project are to: (a) provide a systematic and strategic approach to biodiversity protection in Nepal by formulation of an NBAP and to implement selected priority activities of the NBAP; (b) implement selected activities of the MBNCPA Plan that are especially relevant to the GEF through a management approach which recognizes the interdependence of development and biodiversity conservation; and (c) enhance the national capacity to protect and manage Nepal's unique biodiversity through the provision of training and equipment.

Project activities will include: (a) determining the best mechanism for close collaboration with the Dutch-funded Biodiversity Profiles Project; (b) formulating the NBAP in accordance with the Convention on Biodiversity; (c) identifying appropriate, innovative and practical techniques for protection of the identified biodiversity values with the participation of local communities; (d) developing an integrated monitoring; (e) developing a sustainable grazing management system in MBNPCA; (f) preparing and implementing an eco-tourism programme system in MBNPCA; (g) developing an effective conservation education programme in consultation with the local people; and (h) establishing management systems for specific ecosystems within MBNPCA.

Inputs

UNDP will provide funding ($2.6 million) for implementation of the specific activities related to the implementation of the MBNPCA Management Plan; (190,000) the subcontract between the DNPWC and the KMTNC for the training of DNPWC staff; ($361,000) agreements undertaken between the DNPWC and other NGOs (to be identified) for the preparation and implementation of selected activities of the National Biodiversity Action Plan; and ($95,000) training activities to be undertaken by the DNPWC to enhance national capacity for the conservation of biodiversity. UNDP will also provide equipment ($95,000 million) to DNPWC, including radio sets, research/laboratory equipment and other equipment needed for field work; national professional staff ($114,000 million) to closely monitor the project; and a sum of $190,000 (5 percent of project cost) reserved for contingencies.

Financial data

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Personnel	251 400
Subcontract	3 151 000
Training	95 000
Equipment	95 000
Miscellaneous	207 600
Total	3 800 000

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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF
MALAYSIA

IPF:(1992-96) $ 7091000

(MAL/92/010) - Strengthening the Industrial Property System of Malaysia

Date of approval by the AC:[1/]	16 June 1993
Expected duration:	28 months
Proposed executing agency:	WIPO
Government implementing agency:	Ministry of Domestic Trade & Consumer Affairs
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$549400 Source of funds: IPF
Total UNDP budget:	$549400

Project background

The industrial property system in Malaysia is still at the stage of being further developed to keep pace with the country's industrialisation process and economic growth. The Government has made serious efforts to provide effective protection of industrial property rights in the country. Although progress has been made, a considerable improvement is still needed. The Malaysian Patents Act 1983, which came into force on 1 October 1986, provides an independent patent system in Malaysia, replacing the previous system of re-registration of United Kingdom patents. Before October 1990, two Government Ministries were involved in the administration of the Malaysian patent system. The first was the Patent Registration Office (PRO), a unit under the Registry of Trademarks and Patent within the Ministry of Trade and Industry (now Ministry of International Trade and Industry), which handled registration of patent and trademarks applications and granting of certificates. The second was the Patent Information and Documentation Centre (PIDC) within the Standards and Industrial Research Institute of Malaysia under the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment, which performed the search and substantive examination of patents and trademarks application. The fragmented industrial property functions by different ministries, coupled with the lack of experienced staff, had greatly hampered the Government's efforts to promote national innovative activities and transfer of technology through speedy processing of patenting and patent protection.

As of late 1990, the Government started to examine its industrial property system. The creation of the new Ministry of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs in October that year had streamlined the Government's fragmented industrial property functions originally performed by the different ministries. The new Ministry was also assigned the responsibility for copyrights and industrial designs. The Intellectual Property Division (IPD) of the new

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Ministry now takes care of all the intellectual property functions, including registration of patent applications, technical examination of applications, trademarks, copyrights and industrial designs. The Government has thus brought together the industrial property functions under one Ministry.

Since the entry into force of the Patents Act in 1986 until October 1992, accumulated unprocessed applications for patents amount to over 8,300, and unprocessed trademarks applications around 40,000. This huge backlog, plus new applications, is expected to take about 10 years to clear based on the current and newly recruited examiners' outputs, according to the Government's own assessment. This has caused serious dissatisfaction among the applicants and agents and inhibiting external investments. In view of the above-mentioned situation, the Ministry initiated contacts with WIPO in early 1992 for assistance; and this was consequently brought to the attention of UNDP for funding. Two expert missions were sent from WIPO in July and December 1992 under preparatory assistance, to identify and determine the specific needs of the Government. The findings and recommendations of these missions have served the basis for further UNDP assistance under the current proposed project.

Description of project

The project will mainly provide advisory expert services to assist in the strengthening and development of the new Intellectual Property Division (IPD) through training of new staff, assistance in the introduction of increased computerised administration, developments of patents and trademarks database, establishment and use of patent information services, guidance on the application of proposed revised legislation on patents and trademarks, and the possible introduction of a national industrial designs legislation. The project will also undertake the acquisition of patent documentation collections and other technical reference material which is essential for the patent examining process and the establishment of patent information and documentation service.

Inputs

UNDP will provide six man-months for an expert on patent classification, examination, administration and legislation including one man-month to conduct group training; six man-months for an expert to advise on trademark classification, examination, administration and legislation including one man-month to conduct group training, seven man-months of consultancies on industrial design legislation, intellectual property procedures, computerisation and on patent information and documentation; 10 fellowships for training abroad; a subcontract for software development; acquisition of technical documentation; and miscellaneous costs.

Financial data

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Personnel	381400
Subcontract	20000
Training	100000
Equipment	40200
Miscellaneous	7800
Total	549400

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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO AN INTERREGIONAL PROJECT

(INT/93/679)- Social Development in the 1990s

Date of approval by the AC:[1/]	30 June 1993
Expected duration:	Two years
Proposed executing agency:	United Nations
Implementing agency:	UN Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD)
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$1 150 000 Source of funds: IPF
Total UNDP budget:	$1 150 000

Project background

The challenges facing the world community in the 1990s are of unprecedented gravity and complexity. There is a need for governments and the development community to promote development strategies which recognize the complementarities between economic, social and political development. The decision of the General Assembly to convene a World Social Summit in March 1995 represents a historic opportunity for the world community to address these issues. It will focus on the following core areas: enhancement of social integration, particularly of disadvantaged and marginalzed groups; alleviation and reduction of poverty; and expansion of productive employment. The preparatory process for the summit will consist of Preparatory Committee meetings in Jan/Feb 1994, Aug/Sept 1994 and Jan 1995. For UNDP, as for the entire UN System, the Summit presents a major opportunity to address the key issues confronting all societies in the 1990s and beyond. In its annual Human Development Reports, UNDP has made a major intellectual contribution to the debate on the relationship between economic and social development. The preparatory process leading up to the Summit, and the Summit itself, will provide UNDP with an opportunity to contribute further to the understanding of social development and the elaboration of effective strategies and policies for social development.

UNDP is contributing to the preparations for the Social Summit in various ways, of which this project is a major component. The project, implemented by the UN Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD), aims to mobilize the research community during the preparatory process for the Summit, and will involve a series of publications, discussions, workshops and seminars designed to focus on the key areas of concern of the Summit, and of direct use to policy makers and the development community.

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS DEPT.

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Description of project

The development objective of the project is to improve the usefulness and relevance of agreements proposed and reached at the World Social Summit. The project will consist of three components: (1) Rethinking Social Development in the 1990s; (2) Ethnic Diversity and National integration; and (3) Economic Restructuring and the challenge of Social delegates to the Social Summit, representatives of non-governmental organizations, especially from countries of the South, others within the international development community, and the media. The first two workshops will cover key issues of contemporary social development, such as drugs, refugees, humanitarian assistance, the social impact of HIV/AIDS, and the livelihood implications of various kinds of environmental deterioration. Discussions will be based on brief papers synthesizing the state of knowledge in each of these areas. The third workshop will develop an integrated analysis of the major forces shaping contemporary social change. This effort is based on the premise that the rapidity and complexity of social change in recent decades have made many received concepts and framework of diminishing value in understanding the nature of social development at the end of the twentieth century.

The second component addresses one of the most important global phenomena affecting relations between countries and between social groups. Past studies and discussions on the subject have tended to concentrate on cases of ethnic violence. In contrast, this project will focus on set policies in countries which have been relatively successful in managing relations among different ethnic groups, whether in the domain of politics, culture or the economy. An example would be Tanzania, which is characterized by significant ethnic and religious differences, where state policies in spheres such as regional economic and educational development, fiscal redistribution, political representation, the allocation of functions and powers among national, regional and local levels of government, may have contributed to ethnic harmony. The project will provide for case studies and thematic papers which will synthesize experiences across countries on some vital issues, and for workshop to disseminate the findings to key actors in the Summit preparatory process. The case studies will be undertaken by research institutions in developing countries, coordinated by UNRISD.

The third component will focus on an assessment of the effects of new programmes implemented to provide social support in a period characterized by deepening poverty, fiscal crisis and economic restructuring. Systems of social services and social security built up over the past decades will be dismantled and replaced by new programmes and policies to address growing social problems. The study will examine the impact of new forms of social provisioning on disadvantaged and marginalized groups in society, focussing on targeting and the creation of special social funds. A workshop will provide an occasion for channelling the results of the project towards preparation of the Summit document.

Inputs

UNDP will provide three programme coordinators at UNRISD for a total of 29 work-months, 44 work-months of consultants; administrative support; three workshops, two conferences and publications.

Financial data

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Personnel	598 000
Training	300 000
Miscellaneous	252 000
Total	1 150 000

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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF PHILIPPINES

IPF:(1993-97) $40 327 000

(PHI/92/008) - Development of Social Security Protection in Government Service

Date of approval by the AC:[1]	30 June 1993
Expected duration:	15 months
Proposed executing agency:	Government
Government implementing agency:	Government Service Insurance System & NEDA
Proposed UNDP contribution:	$435 100 Source of funds: IPF
Total UNDP budget:	$435 100

Project background

In the Philippines, there are four laws that implement the citizens' social security rights, namely, the Social Security Law; the Revised Government Service Insurance Act; the Revised Philippine Medicare Act; and the Law on Employees' Compensation. These laws constitute the Philippine social security system, which also provide the bases for various social security programmes. There are two agencies mandated by the legislation to implement the provisions of these laws. They are the Social Security System (SSS) and the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS). The former provides social security protection to the private sectors, while the latter provides social security benefits and insurance services to permanent government employees. This project will address the social security system for the public sector (GSIS).

Although a good range of social security benefits has been built up, the system of social security protection of government personnel does not meet desired standards with respect to adequacy, equity and uniformity. In terms of adequacy, the average GSIS monthly pension of P908 as at 1991 is very much lower than the poverty level of P2,960 (1988; for a family of six). Improvements in benefits are constrained by resource limitations. Existing social security benefits are not uniform across the government service. Various types of social security benefits have been added to the original GSIS insurance and pension schemes. A large group of government employees classified as casual or temporary is left out of the main social security programmes. These have resulted in a piecemeal rather than an integrated approach in paying benefits. Moreover, the very centralized organizational structure of the social security agencies contribute to the significant delay in the

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processing and approval of claims and causes considerable dissatisfaction and hardship amongst the applicants. The Fifth Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan (MTPDP) for 1987-1992 and the MTPDP for 1993-1997 call for regular review, upgrading, expansion and harmonization of the country's social security programmes within the provisions of the legislations, for the benefit of its people.

Description of project

The immediate objectives of the project are to: (a) improve the standards of social security protection for government personnel, through provision of external technical assistance to GSIS toward restructuring its benefit system; and (b) establish a more adequate, equitable, uniformed social security system.

Project activities will include the production of: (i) proposals on the restructuring of the GSIS system of social security and other benefits on a more cost-effective, equitable and uniform basis, including proposal on extension of coverage for casual and non-permanent government employees; (ii) studies on the transferability of benefits between GSIS (public sector) and SSS (private sector) schemes, and proposals for possible changes to the legislation; (iii) proposed guidelines for decentralization of social security functions; and (iv) revised procedures for data collection, record maintenance, claim processing, and payment of benefits. The administrative system will be improved to increase efficiency by decentralizing the delivery of services. In addition, the project will develop the human resources of the GSIS, through management and supervisory training both within and without the country. Finally, a comprehensive review of all social security programmes will be undertaken to assist policy-makers in formulating an integrated and comprehensive social protection policies and delivery mechanisms for the entire population, particularly for the low income population.

Inputs

UNDP will provide the services of international experts in social security planning and administration (15 work-months), and supervisory and management training (six work-months), ten fellowships and study tours for GSIS and NEDA personnel; a subcontract for a comprehensive review of social protection schemes by a national institution; and miscellaneous costs.

Financial data

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Personnel	299 200
Subcontract	50 000
Training	76 500
Miscellaneous	9 400
Total	435 100

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